

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1528

Honoring the life and recognizing the accomplishments of civil rights leader
J.L. Chestnut, Jr.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 3, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama submitted the following resolution; which was referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and recognizing the accomplishments of
civil rights leader J.L. Chestnut, Jr.

Whereas J.L. Chestnut Jr., was born on December 16, 1930,
in Selma, Alabama, and attended Talladega College and
Howard University School of Law;

Whereas in 1958, J.L. Chestnut Jr., returned to his home-
town and began practice as the first African-American
lawyer in Selma;

Whereas during the 1960s, J.L., Chestnut Jr., served as an
advisor, strategist and participant in efforts led by civil
rights leaders, including the late Reverend Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr., to seek racial justice in Alabama;

Whereas J.L. Chestnut, Jr., was present at the Edmund
Pettus Bridge on “Bloody Sunday,” March 7, 1965,

when the police attempted to prevent demonstrators from beginning the historic march from Selma to Montgomery;

Whereas J.L. Chestnut, Jr., successfully argued critical civil rights cases, leading to the rights of African-Americans to serve on juries in Dallas County, to desegregate Selma public schools, and, in 1999, to provide relief to farmers who were discriminated against by the United States Department of Agriculture;

Whereas the life story of J.L. Chestnut Jr., is outlined in his memoir, “Black in Selma: The Uncommon Life and Times of J.L. Chestnut, Jr.; and

Whereas the community of Selma has lost a beloved son with passing of J.L. Chestnut, Jr., on September 30, 2008, at the age of 77: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses its condolences to the surviving
3 family of J.L. Chestnut, Jr., his wife Vivian, three
4 daughters, three sons, sister, six grandchildren and
5 two great-grandchildren; and

6 (2) honors the life of J.L. Chestnut Jr., a recognized leader and powerful advocate for justice and
7 equality.
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